FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date November 27, 1963

KERRY WENDELL THORNLEY, 1824 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, voluntarily appeared at the New Orleans Office at 12:30 PM, November 26, 1963, and advised that he would like to offer his services in any way to determine the guilt or innocence of LEE HARVEY OSWALD. THORNLEY stated that he was formerly in the U. S. Marine Corps, 9th Marine Air Control Squadron, stationed at El Toro Marine Base, California. He stated for approximately four months he was associated with LEE HARVEY OSWALD during 1959. He advised that his association with OSWALD was terminated when he, THORNLEY, was transferred overseas, being assigned to the First Marine Air Control Squadron, stationed in Japan, the Phillippines, and Formosa area.

THORNLEY stated that LEE HARVEY OSWALD had been assigned overseas in Japan and had returned to the United States prior to the time he had met him and it was his recollection that OSWALD had become interested in Russia and had studied the Russian Language while living in Japan. THORNLEY stated that it was his opinion that OSWALD was not a Communist while he was assigned to the El Toro Marine Base.

THORNLEY stated that throught news media he had learned that OSWALD had gone to Russia to live and through the same news media, had learned that he had returned to the United States, disillusioned about Communism. THORNLEY stated that he had not seen or talked to OSWALD since 1959 and his knowledge of OSWALD since that time has been from news media. He stated that he has been interested in OSWALD as a person and is planning to make him the central figure of a fictional book he is writing, using OSWALD's background as a theme for the book.

THORNLEY stated that he was not aware that OSWALD was in New Orleans and had no contact with him. He stated that on May 1, 1963, he took a six day trip to California and approximately July 25, 1963, he took a six day trip into Mexico, to Mexico City, and returned. He advised that this trip was a sight-seeing trip and he returned to New Orleans about August 1, 1963. He stated that upon returning to New Orleans, he did not meet LEE HARVEY OSWALD and had no knowledge that OSWALD was living in New Orleans until he read the news

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On 11/26/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69

by SA REGIS L. KENNEDY
SA CLAUDE L. SCHLAGER /cjo Date dictated 11/27/63

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reports after OSWALD was implicated in the murder of President KENNEDY.

THORNLEY furnished the following personal information regarding himself.

He stated that he had made no secret that he was not particularly disturbed over the death of President KENNEDY, although he does not approve of assassination nor does he approve of the subsequent murder of OSWALD. He stated that the time that he was in California in the U. S. Marine Corps, he adopted an extremely liberal point of view attending the Los Angeles Unitarian Church with a girl named SYLVIA MARTIN who was a student at the UCLA. He stated that he understands that she is now married to a man named UNAMS (phonetic), who is now residing and studying in Havana, Cuba. He advised that he and SYLVIA MARTIN shared the same general social view. He advised that SYLVIA MARTIN went to Mexico, exact date he does not recall, and when she returned, he heard that she had adopted the Communist philosophy. He stated that while he himself was liberal when he left the United States, his experiences overseas caused him to change his opinion and at the present time he would term himself to be somewhere between the Communist Left and John Birch Right.

THORNLEY advised that OSWALD, as he recalled, rarely left the Marine base and had no close personal friends. He stated that a CHARLES WIER (phonetic) or BUD SIMCO, who were in the 9th Marine Air Control Squadron in 1959, might have some personal information regarding OSWALD. He advised that while OSWALD was in the Marine Corps he subscribed to a Russian Language Newspaper and this fact aroused the suspicion of a lieutenant, whose name he does not recall, and there may have been an investigation regarding this incident.

THORNLEY advised that at no time was he ever aware that there was a Communist Party cell or Communist group within the U. S. Marine Corps. He stated that generally speaking, the opinions of members of the Marine Corps directed to the minor day to day problems of the men rather than any broad political opinion such as Communism. THORNLEY advised

that in the time he associated with OSWALD, he exhibited no evidence of homosexual tendencies, nor at the same time did he exhibit any interest of social affairs outside of the Marine Corps.

THORNLEY advised that during the time that he was in Mexico City, he was sight-seeing, staying in Mexico City approximately two days and then returning to the United States. He stated that he had no knowledge of any consular offices of any government in Mexico.

THORNLEY advised his Marine Corps Serial Number was 167334.

Photograph of THORNLEY obtained.

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